

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-3, 10-14 and 19 as follows:

1. (currently amended) A method comprising the steps of:

receiving, from a host terminal, a request to set up a virtual conference, the virtual conference defining a communication forum for communicating virtual conference information among a plurality of virtual reality terminals including the host terminal, the virtual conference information including one or more virtual images;

determining selected attributes of the virtual conference;

retrieving information supporting the selected attributes[.];

filtering at least a portion of the information, yielding filtered information and supplementing one or more of the information and filtered information with supplemental information, the information, filtered information and supplemental information defining the virtual conference information;

sending at least a portion of the virtual conference information to a virtual conference bridge; and

connecting the host terminal to the virtual conference bridge, thereby ~~establishing a~~ setting up the virtual conference including initially at least the host terminal.

2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of retrieving information comprises retrieving a portion of the virtual conference information from a virtual conference database.

3. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of retrieving information comprises retrieving a portion of the virtual conference information from the host terminal, the virtual conference information including one or more facial images of a host operating the host terminal.

4. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of determining selected attributes comprises receiving indicia of options selected via the host terminal.

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5. (original) The method of claim 4, wherein the step of receiving indicia of options comprises receiving indicia of a selected room type, the step of retrieving information comprising retrieving information associated with the selected room type from a virtual conference database.

6. (original) The method of claim 4, wherein the step of receiving indicia of options comprises receiving indicia of a selected outdoor environment, the step of retrieving information comprising retrieving information associated with the selected outdoor environment from a virtual conference database.

7. (original) The method of claim 4, wherein the step of receiving indicia of options comprises receiving indicia of a selected presentation medium, the step of retrieving information comprising retrieving information associated with the selected presentation medium from a virtual conference database.

8. (original) The method of claim 4, wherein the step of receiving indicia of options comprises receiving indicia of a selected meeting room facility, the step of retrieving information comprising retrieving information associated with the selected meeting room facility from a virtual conference database.

9. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
receiving, from at least one participating terminal, a request to join the virtual conference;
and
connecting the at least one participating terminal to the virtual conference bridge, thereby joining the at least one participating terminal to the virtual conference.

10. (currently amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the step of retrieving information comprises retrieving ~~virtual conference~~ information from one or more of: the virtual conference database, the host terminal and the at least one participating terminal, the ~~virtual~~

conference information from the host terminal and the at least one participating terminal including facial images of operators of the host terminal and the at least one participating terminal.

11. (currently amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the step of filtering comprises removing extraneous ~~further comprising: filtering the virtual conference~~ information retrieved from one or more of: the virtual conference database, the host terminal and the at least one participating terminal, ~~yielding filtered information; and~~
~~sending the filtered information to the virtual conference bridge.~~

12. (currently amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the step of supplementing comprises overwriting at least a portion of ~~further comprising: supplementing the filtered~~ information, ~~yielding supplemented filtered information; and~~
~~sending the supplemented filtered information to the virtual conference bridge.~~

13. (currently amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the step of supplementing comprises overwriting at least a portion of the ~~further comprising: supplementing the virtual~~ conference information retrieved from one or more of: the virtual conference database, the host terminal and the at least one participating terminal, ~~yielding supplemented retrieved information; and~~
~~sending the supplemented retrieved information to the virtual conference bridge.~~

14. (currently amended) A method comprising:
establishing a virtual conference comprising a host virtual reality terminal and one or more participating virtual reality terminals connected to a virtual conference bridge;
communicating virtual conference information including one or more virtual images among the host terminal and one or more participating terminals via the virtual conference bridge, the virtual images including images retrieved from one or more of: the host terminal, the one or more participating terminals and a virtual conference database; and one or more of:

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images derived by removing extraneous information from the retrieved images, defining filtered images;

images derived by overwriting the retrieved images with supplemental information; and
images derived by overwriting the filtered images with supplemental information.

15. (original) The method of claim 14, wherein the step of communicating virtual conference information comprises sending images associated with a selected room type to the host terminal and one or more participating terminals.

16. (original) The method of claim 14, wherein the step of communicating virtual conference information comprises sending images associated with a selected outdoor environment to the host terminal and one or more participating terminals.

17. (original) The method of claim 14, wherein the step of communicating virtual conference information comprises sending images associated with a selected presentation medium to the host terminal and one or more participating terminals.

18. (original) The method of claim 14, wherein the step of communicating virtual conference information comprises sending images associated with a selected meeting room facility to the host terminal and one or more participating terminals.

19. (currently amended) A system comprising:

a switching center;

a virtual conference database; and

a virtual conference bridge,

the switching center being operable to retrieve virtual conference information including one or more virtual images from the virtual conference database and send the information to the virtual conference bridge, the switching center further being operable to connect a host virtual reality terminal and one or more participating virtual reality terminals to the virtual conference

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bridge, thereby establishing a virtual conference where the host terminal and participating terminals may receive the virtual conference information;

the virtual images including images retrieved from one or more of: the host virtual reality terminal, the one or more participating virtual reality terminals and the virtual conference database; and one or more of:

images derived by removing extraneous information from the retrieved images, defining filtered images;

images derived by overwriting the retrieved images with supplemental information; and
images derived by overwriting the filtered images with supplemental information.

20. (original) The system of claim 19 wherein the virtual conference information comprises images associated with one or more of: a room type, an outdoor environment, a presentation medium and a meeting room facility,

the switching center being operable to retrieve selected images from the virtual conference database and send the selected images to the virtual conference bridge, the host terminal and participating terminals receiving the images upon connection to the virtual conference bridge.